

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 21, 2004. Claims 1 to 44 are in the application, with Claims 1, 19, 38, 40, 42, and 44 being independent. Claims 1, 4, 19, 38, 40, 42, and 44 have been amended herein. Claims 6, 15, 16, 18, 30, 32, and 38 to 41 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to an election of species requirement. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 11, 17, 19, 20, 22, and 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,424,939 (Matsuda). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,574,806 (Kragl). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,626,585 (Malone). Claims 4, 7, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,568,863 (Murata). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,946,438 (Minot). Claims 9, 23 to 29, 33 to 36, 42, and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,527,455 (Jian). Claims 10, 12, and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,730 (Kravitz). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda and Kravitz in view of Minot. Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Matsuda and Jian in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,332,721 (Inokuchi). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

According to one feature of the invention as recited by Claims 1, 19, 42, and 44, the layer made of radiation-curable or electron-beam-curable material and having a guidehole is formed directly on a surface of the surface optical device.

Matsuda is not seen to teach or suggest at least the foregoing feature.

The Office Action states that Matsuda's adhesive 113 corresponds to the claimed layer made of radiation-curable or electron-beam-curable material. However, as shown in Fig. 1 of Matsuda, the adhesive 113 is not formed directly on a surface of the surface emitting laser 108.

None of Kragl, Malone, Murata, Minot, Jian, Kravitz, and Inokuchi is seen to remedy the deficiencies of Matsuda.

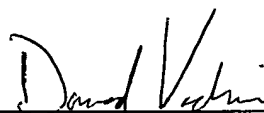
Dependent Claims 2 to 5, 7 to 14, 17, 20 to 29, 31, 33 to 37, and 42 to 44 are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 44 is believed to be generic to Species (1) to (9). Accordingly, once Claim 44 receives an indication of allowability, Applicants submit that they are entitled to the allowance of non-elected Claims 6, 15, 16, 18, 30, 32, and 38 to 41, since each of these claims includes all the features of Claim 44. See MPEP § 806.04(d).

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C.
office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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